

# H&D Race Officials Meeting

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Attending:** John Purkess (Chair), Alan Stewart, Alison Houlton, Sophie Foad, Gary Joyce, Martin Bradbeer, Paul Newman, Simon Clements, Keith Warland, Micky Jenner, Steve Bull, Joe Fuccio, Penny Budd, Pete Staddon, Mark Viner

**Item 1: Apologies:** Ray Murphy, Gary Walters, Carole Wall, Nigel Perry

*JP opened up saying we have lost two of our senior officials, Denis Woodford in September and Ted Shergold last week. Ted's funeral is this Wednesday at 9:30am at Southampton Crematorium*

**Item 2: Minutes of last meeting**

- JP thought the Race Officials WhatsApp worked very well, especially for water based officials
- Martin raised the point that still a problem getting all of the wash up meeting reports, especially the cox of the day names.
- JP will be stepping down as an official this year, will still help out with medals etc. John Bailey is also stepping down as a race official, not been well but back home from hospital now and slowly recuperating.
- Both Carol Wall and Nigel Perry are unable to officiate this season.

**Item 3: Review of the Season**

**Starting**

- MB said that crews boatmanship needs work on by clubs as many crews have inability to back down off the line
- AS agreed, that at Swanage Regatta, there was a real problem with this
- JF said that we may need to reiterate to Captains what is expected from crews on start lines
- AH said that marker buoys are really useful on start lines as it gives
- Discussion around boat changes and the time it takes for crews to change boats/coxswain changes. MV suggested a time limit from end of the race to start of the race so crews know how long they have to get on the start line?
- GJ spoke about warning crews about breaking the start line and warning them prior to the racing starts that if a crew breaks the line they will be warned
- SF and SB also said that crews hanging back need to be left rather than waiting for them on the start
- Debate around a 5 minute warning. PB said that three horns could be used, 1 blast at start of the 5 mins, 2 blasts at 2.5mins and 3 blasts when the crews are under starters orders. This would help crews know how long they have to boat change.
- Discussed proposing 5 min officials rule to be trialled for boat changes at regattas as an officials recommendation to the AGM *'if the officials have approved a boat change, clubs have 5 minutes from the end of the previous race to the next race being started' If the crew boat changing exceeds this time frame, the race will start without them. It needs to be made clear on the morning of the regatta that this rule will be implemented.'*
- PS said that this could also be reiterated over the Captain's WhatsApp group as this will have more impetuous.

- JP pointed out that many of the novice crews take instructions from the coxswain so we as starters may ask a crew to back off the line but they won't do anything until the coxswain instructs them.
- PB said another recommendation to the AGM for clubs would be that Coxswains need to attend the Captain's / Coxswains briefing

### ***Judging***

- JP said that recording the numbers of crews coming across the line for Gary's recording is sometimes hard and you need three officials to do so. One to horn, one to look for numbers and one to scribe. This also is hard on multilane races when finishing is tight. GJ said that what worked well last season was a delegation of duties for finishing where the same officials take the role for the finishing – same person to scribe, same person to look out and same to blow the horn.
- Continue with the trial for the recording of the results to all crews and review the data.
- KW said that all Assistant Officials that he trains are asked to record the finishing of all crews as he says that sometimes, crews are disqualified and therefore you need the results.
- Agreed to purchase two pairs of binoculars for the officials through the H&D. PB to speak to Sue about purchase.
- GJ said that standard of boat numbers has got worse and need to be reiterated to club captains to have visible, well maintained numbers.
- MV said that each regatta needs to clarify at club briefing where the finish line is (inside buoy / marker buoy) as many crews are unaware and each regatta is different.

### ***Umpiring***

- AS there are certain regatta's where you only have two umpires afloat and 10 or more buoys, recommend that you have three umpires afloat.
- KW said that Newport, after the start, if an incident happened, they had no way of stopping / controlling the race. Need a mid-course umpire.
- PS said that the handover from starters to umpires is not consistent enough, especially in sunny conditions.

### **Item 4: Membership of Umpires Committee**

- John Bailey has advised that he doesn't want to continue to stand on the Umpires Committee so we will require a replacement.
- MB, AH, KW & JP to remain on the committee & Joe Fuccio has volunteered to take the place.
- JP is stepping down as a Race Official and whilst he was happy to stand in as Chair this year, he does not want to take this on a permanent basis. **Pete Staddon has volunteered to be new Chairman of the Race Officials Meeting.**

### **Item 5: Examination of Full and Assistant Race Officials**

Full Racing Officials to take examinations this year:

- It is believed that all Full Race Officials are up to date with examinations.

#### Assistant Race Officials

- Gary Joyce, Paul Newman and Joe Fuccio to progress to Full Race Official this season. JP to pass them an exam at the end of the meeting to take.
- JP has a copy of what is expected as an Assistant Official which can be found on the website.
- PN added that the South Coast organising committees also confirm with Assistants if they are attending as he heard nothing from Paignton.
- Discussion surrounding how many Race Officials each regatta is required to be run safely.

Milford On Sea – 6

Newport – 6 (each day)

Christchurch – 7

Ryde – 6

Shanklin – 6

Itchen – 8

Coalporters – 5

BTC – 6

Swanage – 6

Southsea – 4 (H&D)

Poole – 6

Bournemouth – 6

Woolston – 6

These are all minimum numbers of Race Officials required. SB to advise all regatta secretaries that this is what the Race Officials believe should be the minimum number for their respective regatta.

#### **Item 6: Review of Race Reports**

- MB said the race reports have been coming in well, especially the assistants reports. SB has asked for copies of the reports for any Safety Incidents – PB will send copies over to Steve.

#### **Item 7: Club Race Official minimum**

Clubs who haven't met two official which will be fined £100 per official. For the 2022 season, it stood as:

BTC – 1 official

Christchurch – 2

Coalporters – 4

Itchen – 2

Lymington – 3

Newport – 0

Poole – 2

Ryde – 2

Shanklin – 2

Southampton – 2

Southsea - 0

As Bournemouth did not host a regatta, they do not need to have the minimum numbers.

Therefore, the fines would be £200 for Newport and Southsea and £100 for BTC. PB to ask Sue Sothcott to raise invoice.

- BTC have 2 new Assistant Officials for 2023 Caroline King and Jo Wilson
- Kerry Wardell is also going to be an Assistant Official, confirm which club (believed to be Southampton)

### **Item 8: Race Officials Availability**

- According to availability sheets for 2023 for SCC  
Penny Budd - Umpire  
Pete Staddon - Umpire  
Mark Viner - Judge  
Alison Houlton – Starter (possibility)  
(Micky Jenner as reserve if AH cannot make it)  
Martin Bradbeer - reserve  
Joe Fuccio – reserve
- PS asked for any feedback for the SCC AGM at the end of the month. The main talking point is the finish line at Paignton but overall, a very good event and well run.

### **Item 9: Cox of the Year**

- All agreed the way in which the Cox of the Year is decided is working well.
- SF raised the point that a lot of novice coxswains are sometimes too small to handle the equipment and have obviously not been taught basic coxing technique. PB agreed, many coxswains are not aware to hold rudder lines tight when backing down.

### **Item 10: Recommendations for Rule Changes**

- Recommendation for the 5 min crew change to be put together - GJ
- No rule changes

### **Item 11: Insurance for Race Officials**

- Through British Rowing for £32 but not available for over 80's.
- Can be claimed back through H&D – PB to send out forms to race officials
- Can be used against clothing items
- British Rowing only send a reminder if you are set up as direct debit but no reminders if you only pay per year

## **Item 12: Review Safety Equipment**

- All safety equipment all maintained and thanks to Pete Staddon for repairing the megaphones.
- Possibly may have to purchase a new megaphone next year if we need to replace the old one but Pete has cleaned the corroding contacts.

## **Item 13: Any other business**

- MB once the assistants have done their tests, Martin asked if there would be an interview before the start of the season?
- PN reported that Bournemouth RC have been given notice to vacate their premises again and have told BCP council that if another location is not found then they will have to close. Meeting with the council and British Rowing next week so will keep the association up to date on developments. PN asked if the H&D would look to running Bournemouth Regatta like they do with Swanage? Something to discuss at AGM?
- JP was contacted by BR for obituary for Denis Woodford.

*Thanks to BTC and Adam Ratcliffe for hosting and providing lunch*

Meeting closed 2.00pm